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# Stump Speech

Max S. Baucus

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Senator \* or Department\*: **BAUCUS**

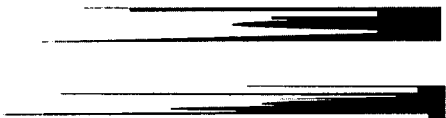
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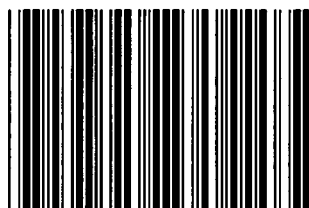
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 Stump Speech in Montana, Pork

 04/28/1978

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BAUCUS

A STUMP SPEECH  
FOR MAX BAUCUS

I'VE BEEN DOING A LOT OF FLYING BETWEEN MONTANA AND WASHINGTON THESE PAST FEW YEARS. LATELY, EVERY TIME I FLY OVER WASHINGTON, I LOOK DOWN AND SEE WHAT APPEARS TO BE A GIANT CHRISTMAS TREE.

I DON'T THINK I'M HALLUCINATING ON THOSE LITTLE PEANUTS THEY HAND OUT ON NORTHWEST ORIENT. I GUESS I'M JUST SEEING WASHINGTON FOR WHAT IT REALLY IS: A GIANT CHRISTMAS TREE WITH LITTLE PRESENTS LYING AROUND FOR ALL THE STATES IN THE NATION.

ANOTHER THING I'VE NOTICED IS THAT THE PRESENTS AREN'T ALL THE SAME SIZE. SOME STATES GET BIG FAT PRESENTS LIKE MAJOR MILITARY BASES OR URBAN DEVELOPMENT GRANTS. OTHER STATES GET ONLY LITTLE PRESENTS LIKE A FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM. AND SOME STATES HARDLY GET ANY PRESENTS AT ALL.

MONTANA IS ONE OF THE STATES THAT GETS LESS THAN ITS SHARE OF GOODIES. THIS IS NOT BECAUSE WE ARE ALL BAD BOYS AND GIRLS OUT HERE, OR BECAUSE KINDLY OLD UNCLE SAM SAVES THE BIGGEST PLUMS FOR HIS FAVORITE CHILDREN. IT IS BECAUSE CONGRESS AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ARE DOMINATED BY BIG CITY AND SUBURBAN PEOPLE, MOST OF WHOM COULDN'T EVEN FIND MONTANA ON A MAP.

I SEE THIS PROBLEM IN EVERY ISSUE I DEAL WITH. THE POSTAL SERVICE BUDGET GETS TIGHT, AND MONTANA POST OFFICES ARE THE FIRST TO GO. AMTRAK RUNS SHORT OF FUNDS, AND MONTANA TRAIN SERVICE IS CUT. MAJOR PROGRAMS FOR THE CITIES ARE DEVELOPED WHILE FARM PROBLEMS TAKE A BACK SEAT.

WHEN UNEMPLOYMENT WAS OVER 10 PERCENT OUT HERE A FEW YEARS AGO, WE DIDN'T SEE A MASSIVE INFLOW OF FEDERAL MONEY TO CURE IT. BUT WHEN NEW YORK SO MUCH AS SNEEZES, WASHINGTON IS RIGHT THERE WITH THE HANDKERCHIEF.

I NEVER HEARD ANYONE ACTUALLY SAY THAT A PERSON'S VALUE DEPENDS ON WHERE HE LIVES. I DON'T THINK THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST A PERSON JUST BECAUSE HE OR SHE LIVES UNDER THE BIG SKY INSTEAD OF UNDER THE LIGHTS OF THE BIG CITY. I'M SICK OF FEDERAL OFFICIALS TELLING US MONTANANS TO MAKE SACRIFICES AND TIGHTEN OUR BELTS WHILE HANDING OUT THE BIGGEST PRIZES TO OTHER AREAS.

I'M NOT GOING TO PRETEND THAT ONE PERSON CAN CHANGE THIS. WE MONTANANS HAVE TO WORK AGAINST SOME TOUGH NUMBERS. WE SEND 4 PEOPLE TO CONGRESS. CALIFORNIA AND NEW YORK EACH SEND MORE THAN 40.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN'T FIGHT FOR FIRST-CLASS CITIZENSHIP. WHEN MIKE MANSFIELD AND LEE METCALF WERE IN THE SENATE, CONGRESS SAT UP AND PAID ATTENTION TO MONTANA'S NEEDS. THOSE TWO MEN PROVED THAT IT'S HARD WORK AND TALENT THAT COUNTS, NOT JUST BIG NUMBERS.

SINCE I CAME TO CONGRESS, I'VE TRIED TO BECOME AS EFFECTIVE IN THE HOUSE AS MANSFIELD AND METCALF WERE IN THE SENATE. I HAVE WRITTEN LETTERS, I HAVE MADE CALLS, I HAVE ORGANIZED LOBBY EFFORTS, I HAVE TWISTED BUREAUCRATIC ARMS AND TWEAKED LEGISLATIVE NOSES. IN SHORT, I HAVE TRIED TO VOICE OUR NEEDS LOUD AND CLEAR TO THE POWERS THAT BE. AND I THINK I CAN SAY THAT, IN MANY WAYS, I HAVE SUCCEEDED.

WE KEPT THE MHD PROJECT IN MONTANA. WE KEPT AMTRAK SERVICE AND POST OFFICES THAT WERE ON THE HIT LISTS OF SOME VERY HEAVY BIGWIGS. WE PUSHED THROUGH A HIGHER TARGET PRICE FOR WHEAT. WE GOT THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO HANDLE SEVERAL OF OUR GRIPEs WITH THE CANADIANS. WE DEMANDED NEW DROUGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, AND WE GOT THEM.

BUT, AS JOHN PAUL JONES ONCE SAID, "WE HAVE JUST BEGUN TO FIGHT!" MONTANA FACES AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE IN THE 80'S, AND WE CANNOT RELENT IN OUR EFFORTS TO WIN OUR FAIR SHARE OF THE FEDERAL PIE. IF ANYTHING, WE WILL HAVE TO FIGHT EVEN HARDER AND SHOUT EVEN LOUDER TO REMAIN AN EQUAL PART OF THE NATION.

MONTANANS CONTINUE TO BE THREATENED WITH INFLATION, ENERGY SHORTAGES, AND CUTBACKS IN ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

TO DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS, WE MUST HAVE A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT IS OPEN, FLEXIBLE AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF ALL THE PEOPLE. THE ERA OF CLOSED DOORS, SMOKE-FILLED ROOMS, AND GOOD-OLE-BOYS HAS PASSED. THE ERA OF SUNSHINE, HONESTY AND, ABOVE ALL, HUMILITY, MUST REPLACE IT.

I DON'T WANT TO GO ON DOING WHAT I HAVE BEEN DOING (PAUSE ....) I WANT TO WORK EVEN HARDER FOR THE PEOPLE OF MONTANA. I WANT TO PUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON NOTICE THAT WE MONTANANS ARE AS AMERICAN AS ANY OTHER STATE IN THE COUNTRY. WE DESERVE THE SAME TREATMENT AS THE BIG URBAN CENTERS, AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE GET IT.

GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO EXPAND THE WORK I'VE BEEN DOING. I PROMISE THAT I WON'T LET YOU DOWN.